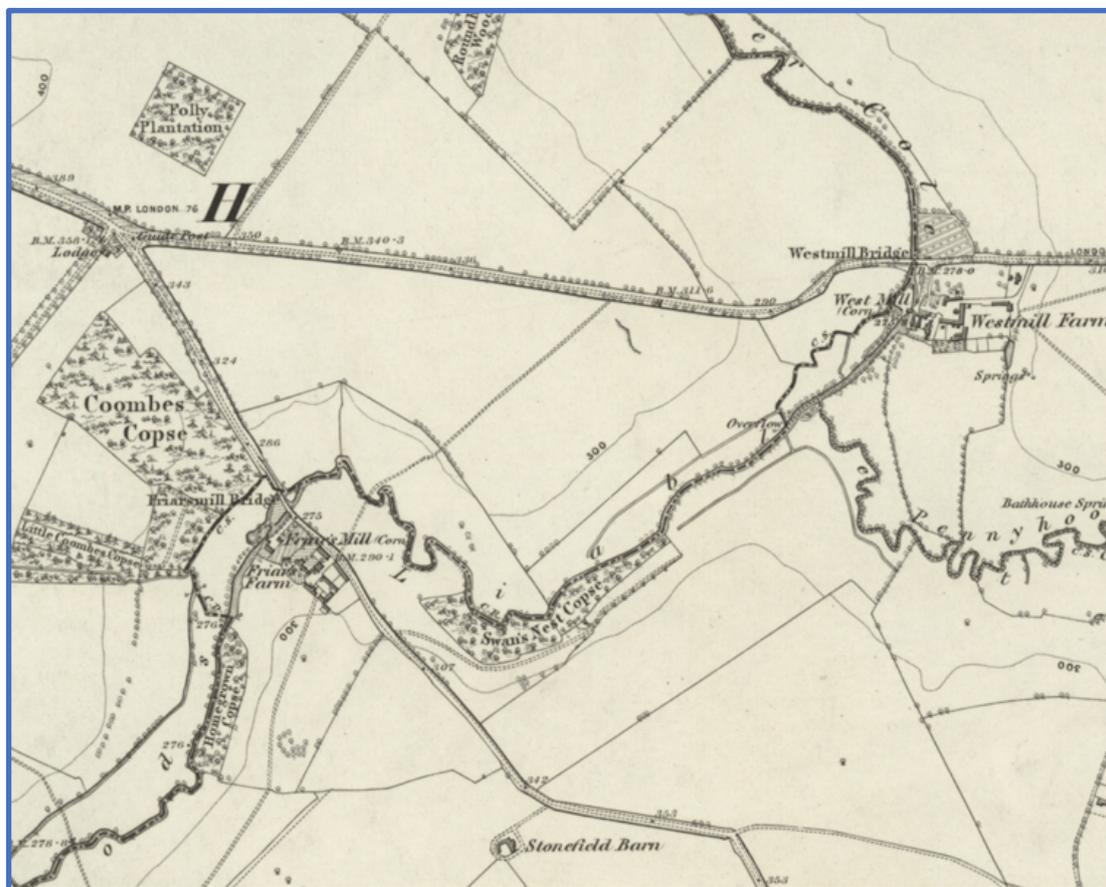


Friars Mill, Shrivenham

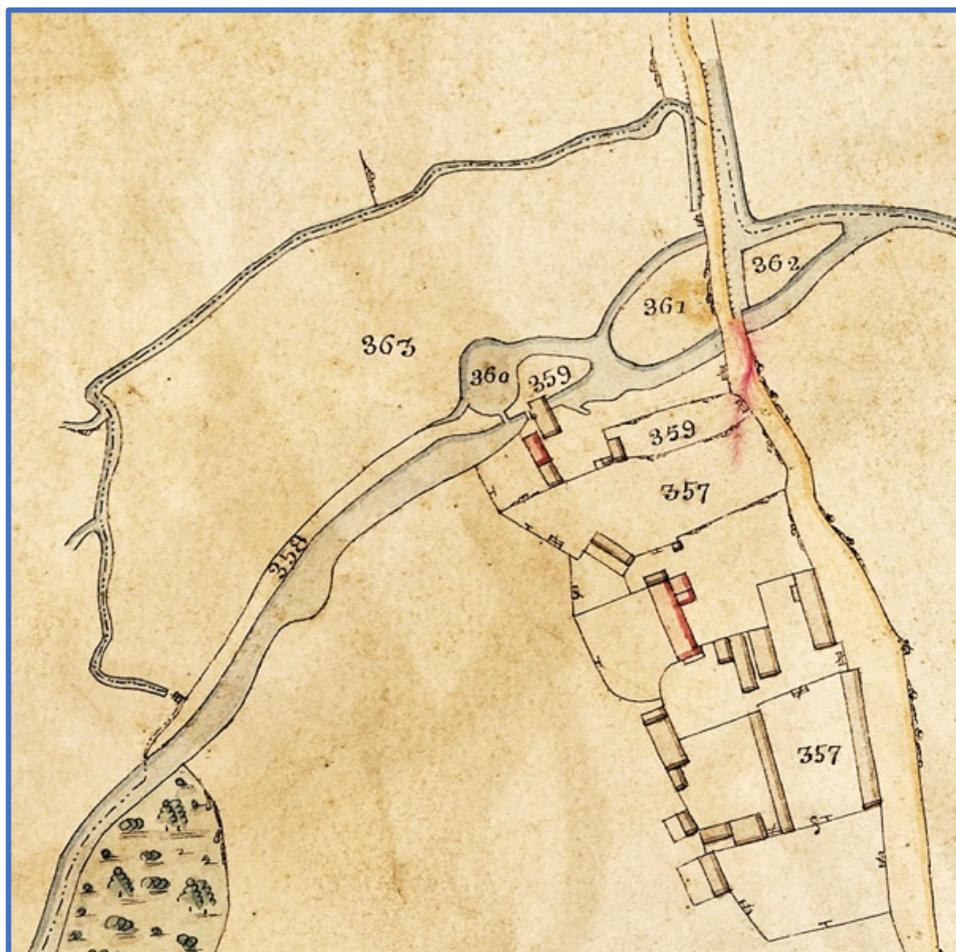
The water mill that was located at Friars Farm, Shrivenham, was used extensively throughout the 17th to 19th centuries. Its origins almost certainly lay much earlier and if we accept the evidence presented in the listing numbered *N1495* in this catalogue, then it can be placed into the early part of the 14th century. It was popular belief until recently that "*Fowers Mill*" of the Royal White Capon fame, was located within Beckett Park, but the evidence presented in *N1495* strongly suggest that Fowers and Fryars are one and the same. Below is a map that shows the location of Friars Mill, (middle left) and the mill known as West Mill (top right).



From the time that the Fryars Mill Estate came into the hands of the Warnefords, there is no mention of it again in documentary sources until the early 17th century. In the Manor Court papers of Shrivenham Salop for the 10th October 1616, it states that Thomas Bassett is the Miller at Friars Mill. Around this time there are numerous

spellings for it; Fias & Fryars being mainly used. By 1618, the Manor Court papers state that Stephen West keeps the mill at Shrivenham, but "*Thomas Forshere and John Grundye are the Millers at Fryers Mill*" Also from the Manor Court documents the Millers for the rest of the 17th century are; Henry Westbrooke 1640s, Geoffrey Haynes 1659, Thomas Young 1663, Richard Osborne 1673, Mr Franklin 1674, , William Farr 1679.

Today, Friars Farm is still on the road from Shrivenham to Highworth and Friars Mill was located just next to it. There are no buildings remaining that housed the mill mechanism itself, but there are scars remaining where the flow of the River Cole had been altered to suit the workings of the mill. There is a useful depiction of the mill layout in the Beckett Estate Map of 1866 (Below). And the key to the numbers on the map are coloured majenta below.



ward			
Coprice		372	355 wood
Home Ground		373	356 pas
Dwelling House	Farm	374	357
Build ^d Yard &	Garden		
Mill Bank		375	358
Frye Mill House	prems	376	359
The Mill Pond & Back	Water	377	360
Garden		378	361
Garden		379	362
Mill Mead		380	363
only in the River Cole adj. the	Frye mill Estate	381	364 water

Documents at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre Archives (WSHC) provided the information that John Young, who was the Miller at nearby West Mill had also taken on the lease of Fryars Mill for £75 paid to owner Edmund Warneford; 'All those two water Grist Mills known as Fryars Mill,' for the term of 99 years. The number referring to the configuration of two sets of grinding stones. John Young also leased the meadow adjoining the mill called Millesham of four acres. Before this the occupier had been Richard Spindler. The Shrivenham Parish records show that Richard and Hannah Spindler were at Fryars Mill in 1705 where on 26th April they had a son Richard baptised at St Andrew's, and the following year on 26th December, Gwin is also baptised. (SHS N1230). The name Spindler or Spindloe also appears at Kingston Winslow Upper Mill a century later. (SHS N144). The Indenture was dated 27th May 1709 (WSHC 802/24). Also in the same bundle, an Indenture dated 28th January 1712 set out that John Young the elder and Susanna Samon, (who John married soon after), took on the lease of Fryars Mill. The Berry family were known throughout the 18th and 19th centuries as Millers. Their name appears as owners of numerous mills around the

area of Wanborough. In his Will (*PROB 11/773/479*) dated April 1747, John Berry described, '*as for my Mill known as Fryas Mill in the Parish of Shrivenham*. The Indenture dated 23rd September 1756 concerns Fryars Farm, which was let by the owner the Rev. Francis Warneford of Sevenhampton, to John Greenhill, Yeoman, and is the renewal of an expired lease. Another Indenture dated 7th June 1773 is between Francis Warneford, Warneford Place, and it adds further, '*Lord of the Manor of Sevenhampton*.' The let is for Fryars Mill to John Grinnel, but likely to be a different spelling of Greenhill. But although Greenhill holds the lease to the Mill, it was likely operated by someone else.



There is a gap in our knowledge of Friars Mill for the latter part of the 18th century and into the first quarter of the following. The census for 1841 confirms that George Kinch was the Miller. The listing shows that he lived there with his wife Sarah and four children. George died later that year in November, but the 1851 census shows that his wife Sarah and her sons continued to operate the mill. The following census of 1861 confirms that Sarah's two sons, George and William were operating the mill together.

By 1871, the Fairthorne family were in possession of Friars Farm and Mill, although we have no indication of exactly who in the family was operating the mill. The census for 1881 shows that Richard Looker was operating it, whilst at the same time his brother George was running West Mill in Watchfield. The census for 1891 recorded that Thomas Pound was there, but his occupation listed him as a, '*Farm Servant*,' rather than a Miller. There is no mention of the mill at all in 1901 and similarly, the census for 1911 listed that Francis Moore occupied Friars Farm with his family, but there is no listing for the mill. This would suggest that use of the mill, like many others in the country discontinued early in the 20th century. We would like to know more about this mill. If you have any further information, please contact us at info@shrivenhamheritagesociety.co.uk

